

## Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 MC-02

AID-20 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 080390

R 271408Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5830

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8732

FOL TEL RPTD FYI

QUOTE

P R 241131Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 7990

INFO RUSBTA/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1328

RUSBAS/AMCONSUL MADRAS 1370

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 1455

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN SEAMEN WITHDRAWN FROM IRANIAN SHIPS

REF: TEHRAN 5112

1. I SAW LEO BARNES THIS MORNING TOGETHER WITH PANOS AND  
HAD USEFUL EXCHANGE. UNDERSCORED USG CONCERN WITH RESPECT  
ANY ALLEGATION OF DIVERSION US ARMS FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN  
AND REMINDED HIM PROBLEM SUCH ALLEGATIONS PRESENT FOR US  
IN INDIA. SAID WE HAD LOOKED INTO MATTER AND ALLEGATION  
COMPLETELY BASELESS. WE WOULD LIKE ANY INFO THEY HAD  
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WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATION.

2. BARNES MADE CLEAR THEY HAD NO INFO SUBSTANTIATE TRANSFER US ARMS FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN. ORIGINAL STORY APPEARING FREE PRESS JOURNAL WHICH THEN PICKED UP BY INDIAN EXPRESS BASED ON ONLY ONE SEAMAN'S ASSERTION TO REPORTER. BARNES SAID NUSI HAD SOUGHT SET RECORD STRAIGHT IN TIMES OF INDIA STORY APPEARING YESTERDAY 23RD. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO DIVERSION IN THIS ARTICLE WHICH ATTRIBUTED WITHDRAWAL SEAMEN FROM IRANIAN SHIPS FOLLOWING ALLEGATION SHIPS CARRYING ARMS FROM US TO IRAN AND OF WHICH THEY HAD BEEN UNAWARE, AND ILL BEHAVIOR TOWARD THEM BY IRANIAN OFFICERS. BARNES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAD HAD REPORT THAT ARMS AND AMMUNITION HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT UNSPECIFIED POINT NORTH OF KARACHI BUT NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT THESE WERE US ARMS OR THAT THEY HAD BEEN DIVERTED FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN. WE ALSO TOOK EXCEPTION TO US "GUN-RUNNING" CHARACTERIZATION OF SHIPMENT US ARMS TO IRAN BUT BARNES SAID THIS TERM EMPLOYED BY REPORTER AND NOT NUSI AND THAT TERM AS USED HERE DOES NOT TAKE ON QUITE SAME ILLEGAL CONNOTATION AS INTERPRETED BY US.

3. COMMENT: BARNES INDICATED ALLEGATION HAD AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND HE QUITE CATEGORICAL IN STATING THAT NUSI HAD NO INFO SUPPORT. THEY HAVE TRIED PUT MATTER INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND HOPEFULLY THIS HAS NOW BEEN DONE AND MATTER PUT TO REST. BARNES ONE OF OUR CLOSEST AND BEST DISPOSED LABOR CONTACTS AND OBVIOUSLY WANTS BE HELPFUL.  
BANE  
UNQUOTE MOYNIHAN

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